

# OPINION

## Blueprint for growth

The county commissioners came out admirably strong in favor of county zoning Monday, especially when one takes into account commissioner Frankie Rabon's statement that, though it passed over his "nay", it shouldn't be repealed by the next board.

We trust it will not, given the earlier statements of two of three new commissioners, and given the mood of enlightenment that seems to affect commissioner business these days.

The point of beginning for the next board is a good zoning ordinance, a blueprint for orderly growth that makes as much sense today as everyone driving on the right side of the road. Too much development is going on in Brunswick County now for there to be any doubt by what rules and standards this development will take place.

County zoning will take effect next July, and by then sitting commissioners Donald Shaw and Jerry Jones, along with Tom Rabon, Sr., Wayland Vereen and Don Warren who join them soon, have the opportunity to solidify support for the principle and remove all doubt that it can be administered thoughtfully, equitably and progressively.

It is hoped they will.

## A living legacy

Earlier this year a suggestion was made that an appropriate way to help commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Smithville/Southport would be to plant 200 live oak trees.

This was deemed to be a good project because the canopy of live oaks has been for centuries a distinctive characteristic of this community, particularly during the winter months when leaves on other trees have withered and blown away. A second good reason to plant more trees is that the number of these giant oaks has steadily diminished, due not only to encroachment of hard surface but from natural deterioration. We have learned that while live oaks live a long time, they do not last forever.

The idea caught on and officials of the City of Southport made contact with the N. C. Department of Transportation, asking for help in planting an avenue of oaks leading into our city. DOT was responsive, and with funds from the Roadside Environmental Unit sent a crew to help with this project, being limited in its participation to plantings bordering state highways. Although these were planted on the eve of summer, 23 of 27 which were set out have survived.

The key to the success late last spring, and now, is a giant spade bucket capable of removing a good-size tree from its natural environment, scooping enough dirt with it to preserve its root structure, then transporting it by truck to the desired location and depositing it in a previously prepared hole in the ground.

Sound simple? It's not. But we have proof positive that it works, and during the remainder of this week many of our citizens will have an opportunity for a close-up look.

There is no prospect that we will have access to this specialized equipment long enough to complete the 200-tree objective, but it should get us halfway. That should put the numbers within reach of Boy Scouts, who have adopted a project to set out another 100 trees of smaller size.

One hundred years from now our descendants will appreciate our foresight and vision and our determination to do something of lasting benefit and pleasure for posterity.

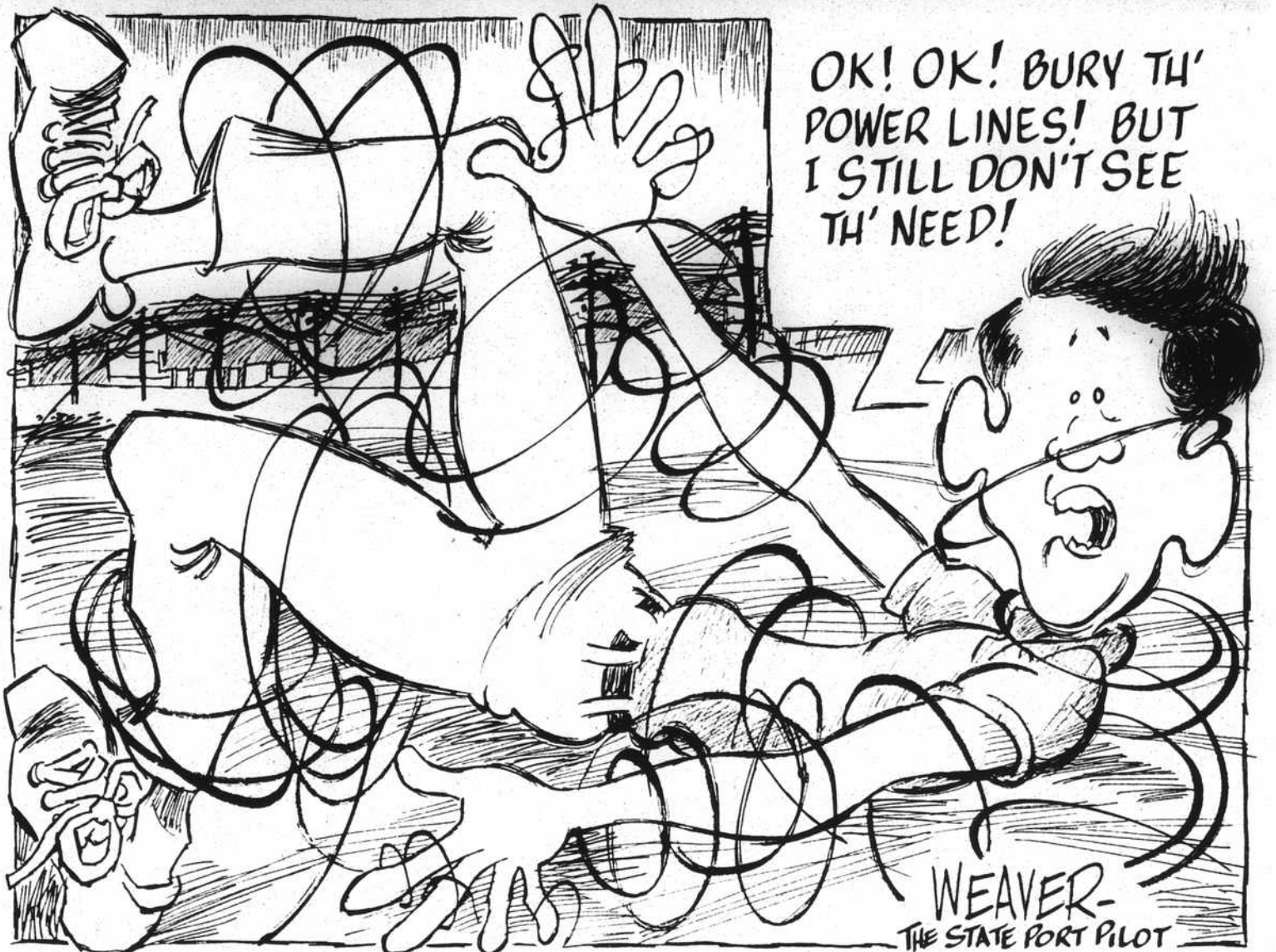
## Meeting the need

Several years ago a new city manager reported for duty in Southport and one of his first public appearances was as speaker at the Lions club luncheon. "I will not keep you too long," he said, "because I have another meeting to attend at 2 o'clock and that will be the fourth I have attended today. This must be the most completely organized town in the state."

It still may be, when you consider regular meetings of all the clubs and organizations, not to mention churches and special committee meetings. Anybody who thinks Southport is a quiet, laid-back place where nothing ever happens is dead wrong.

We offer a suggestion to eliminate some of the confusion when our special events go head-to-head as they have several times recently. Let's add one more responsibility to the Southport 2000 office and ask that a clearinghouse be set up to avoid scheduling conflicts. There's no way these can be completely eliminated, considering your meeting-minded fellow citizens, but the function of a central office certainly would help.

This service would not be automatic and would not serve its designed purpose unless there is responsible cooperation from the affected clubs and organizations, but it is worth a try.



## Not exactly news

Two weeks before Thanksgiving grade-A frozen turkeys were selling for the unheard-of price of 29 cents per pound. What's more, this was the price at both of the local supermarkets and in other stores in their chains in eastern North Carolina... This was good news for the buyers but it was a disaster for turkey growers. We know, because we spent enough time on a farm growing up to know how much a turkey can eat while trying to get fat enough for Thanksgiving.

Something new has been added to the off-season activities at Stevens Park. On Tuesday afternoons for the next few weeks dog obedience classes will be held there with N. C. Highway Patrol trooper Jerry Dove as instructor. Twenty-five dogs (and their masters) are enrolled... Is it just us, or is this a dull, dog-eat-dog NFL football season? Thus far we have not watched a single game from beginning to end. We stayed with major league baseball until late October and by that time NBA basketball was coming on the scene.

Southport provided three background scenes this week for segments of "American Discovery", a feature of the evening news program on WWAY-TV. Rodney Ingle is the special reporter and Thursday night he spoke from the steps of St. Philip's Episcopal Church and the following night he used the front porch of Southport City Hall

next door. On Monday, he was at the Garrison with the impressive commanding officer's home as the backdrop... Tim Downing of that station is an excellent meteorologist but we enjoy seeing Kitty Fitzgibbon as his weekend stand-in weather reporter.

We did not realize that juke boxes have been in existence for the past 100 years but on Saturday night we watched "Juke Box Saturday Night", an anniversary program on WUNC-TV with Patti Paige emceeing a parade of singing stars who have helped keep these music machines running for the past several decades. She did some singing herself, including the song which we have associated with her, "Tennessee Waltz"... All of which reminds us of the days back in the 1930s when the "Honky Tonk" was a favorite place of amusement here in Southport. It was located in the Northrop building on Howe Street and Joe Loughlin was the proprietor. This was back in the days of the dance craze "Big Apple".

Here it is mid-November and we have seen ryegrass growing at only one location in town. We hope some more will be planted before it is too late... Speaking of grass, we saw a local lawn being mowed last week. That should do it for the winter.

Wake Forest and Carolina in football bowl games! Will wonders never cease? This in a year

in which Clemson, Georgia Tech and Virginia have fallen from grace... Now it's on to collegiate basketball where we find Duke picked third in the national rankings, with Carolina and Florida State also in the top ten.

On the Waccamaw 2A Conference level we have two teams, Whiteville and West Brunswick, still in the state championship race. This is a reminder that last season the Trojans went to the state finals... If we sometimes appear to place too much emphasis upon athletics let us remind you of the numbers of boys and girls competitive sports have helped prevent from becoming drop-outs.

Back in the days when menhaden fishing was a principal industry in Brunswick County we remember that the fall fish were called "fatbacks" because of their oil content. These late catches brought a premium price... Speaking of late-fall catches, there were years when shrimpers got a special bonus from the sea with a late run of big shrimp.

Church bazaars are a good way to raise money for worthy causes and they had a good one last week at Trinity United Methodist... We'll write this while it still is true: No ice on the water trough so far at Gladys Johnson's horse barn on the Old River Road.

## Public opinion

### Lakes project

To the Editor:

Let me tell you a little bit about the people who live in Boiling Spring Lakes. They are good and generous people.

Each year at this time a handful of volunteer firemen and rescue squad members go door-to-door delivering fire/rescue 911 calendars. They also ask for donations to help finance equipment, insurance and supplies needed to run the squads.

About 80 percent of the families called on open their hearts and pocketbooks and give donations. For example, I remember a single mother who gave us \$2, money she badly needed for gas; and the retired man who gave \$300 because he wanted to help "in the best way he could"; and the little boy who ran off to get two quarters from his own savings to give to us.

To all of the residence of Boiling Spring Lakes, we spend 24 hours a day in your service and I'm pleased and proud to do it, because I know

the fire and rescue volunteers are appreciated.

If we missed your family and you want a calendar and wish to make a donation, you may do so at City Hall.

Elmer Schorzman

### Worthy cause

To the Editor:

As a volunteer with Hope Harbor Home, I would personally like to thank the owner, employees and volunteers of Ocean Crest Pier and Motel of Long Beach for their very well-planned fish fry with all proceeds going to Hope Harbor

Home, a shelter for abused women and children in Brunswick County.

They had a great turn-out of "fish lovers" who enjoyed a delicious meal and also donated money to a very worthwhile cause.

Thanks again to all of you.

Eloise Gibbs,

Volunteer of Hope Harbor Home

### School work

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the constituents of this county who diligently rallied and voted to secure a position on the board of education for me this past election day. It gave

me great pleasure to be part of a campaign that brought the constituents of this county out in record numbers.

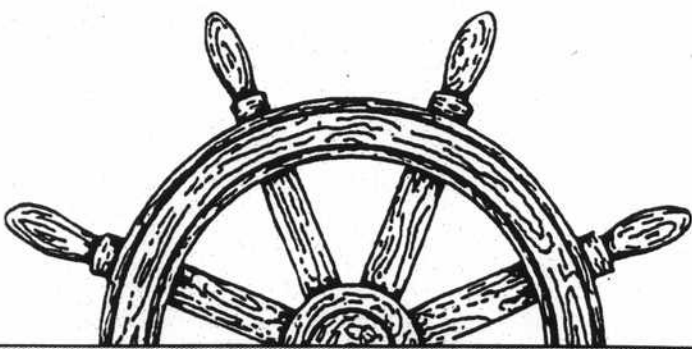
History was made in Brunswick County November 3, 1992. The voting numbers were a clear indication that our citizens are truly concerned and ready for a change. The numbers also reflect that the citizens of Brunswick County have truly come a long way.

I would like to personally congratulate Janet Pope for a race well run. It is my opinion that she ran a clean and constructively initiated campaign. She's an advocate for educational excellence, and this makes her a winner in my book. I would like to publicly invite Mrs. Pope and every citizen of this county to share with me their ideas, knowledge and concerns to see that our children, the future leaders of this county, are academically prepared to enter what is and what will be a very competitive market of survival. I believe that this can be accomplished through uniting and

See Opinion, next page

### To The Editor:

The State Port Pilot invites its readers to share their views on subjects of public interest. Comments should be addressed to The Editor and mailed to The State Port Pilot, P.O. Box 10548, Southport, N.C. 28461. Letters should be limited to 250 words, longer letters will be edited for space, or will be returned to the writer if editing would significantly alter the content. Please include the writer's address and/or telephone number so he or she can be contacted by the Editor if necessary. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed.



## The State Port Pilot

USPS 520-280

Published Every Wednesday

James M. Harper, Jr. ....Publisher  
Ed Harper .....Editor  
Diane McKeithan .....Business Manager  
Marybeth Bianchi .....Feature Editor  
Holly Edwards .....County Editor  
Amitabh Pal .....Municipal Editor  
Kim Adams .....Advertising Sales  
Cindy Leverette .....Advertising Sales  
Debora McKellar .....Graphic Artist  
Sue Parker .....Classified Advertising

Subscription rates (including postage):  
\$10.80 a year in Brunswick County  
\$16.40 elsewhere in North Carolina  
\$19.00 outside of North Carolina

105 South Howe Street, Southport, N.C. 28461-3817

Second class postage paid at Southport & additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
P.O. Box 10548, Southport, N.C. 28461-0548  
Phone: 457-4568/Fax #: 4579427